



Small Group Sermon Response Questions – Week of 5/11/14

Genesis 29:1-30:24 – “Now Laban Had Two Daughters...”

(Our selfish sins against each other, though ugly and serious, are never greater than God's mercy, compassion, faithfulness, and justice.)

1. What do you have in common with Jacob, Leah, and Rachel as we see them in this passage?
 - ✓ When have you taken God's obvious presence in your life and turned it into a license to act impulsively in your “wisdom”?

 - ✓ What is one accomplishment that you feel you *must* achieve in order to secure favor with and respect from God and man?

 - ✓ How have you sinned against God and others in your selfish pursuit of that accomplishment? How has this pursuit caused you to be ungrateful for the gifts you *do* have?

 - ✓ How has God used the sin of others as a “mirror” to lovingly show you your own sin and confront it? (Psalm 119:71) “God wants us to be as disgusted with our sin as He is.”

2. (“It is a loving design of God that marriage be permanent, not maintained based on how deserving of commitment a spouse is or how much one feels like it.”) Discuss the sermon's mention of “sharing the gospel” through one's marriage covenant.

3. How might we as “children of God” (with His “DNA”) respond to seeing the merciful compassion of our Father for the undesired Leah, for Rachel, and for us?

4. How does God's unnatural choice of Leah to be the “mother” of Levi and Moses, Judah and Christ impact our humility and security as His people? (“God's favor is not confined by our pettiness, our shallowness, or even just our averageness.”)

5. Discuss how sin happens because we are grasping for something that is lesser than God Himself as our treasure, a treasure which never truly satisfies.

6. Respond to the specific applications given to singles, spouses, and parents at the end of the sermon.